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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Raises) d PCT/PTO 1 6 DEC 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference 84868-EH	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/4110/518958						
International application No.	International filing date (day/mon	th/year) Priority date (day/month/year)					
i							
PCT/NO 2003/000193	12.06.2003	17.06.2002					
International Patent Classification (IPC) o							
B63B 22/04, B63B 21/50							
Applicant							
Advanced Production and Loading AS et al							
1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining							
Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.							
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.							
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:							
a. (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:							
sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report							
and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the							
Administrative Instructions). sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes							
beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.							
b. (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s))							
o. (see to the line) have							
, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).							
4. This report contains indications re	elating to the following items:						
·	f the report						
Box No. II Priority	•						
Box No. III Non-est	tablishment of opinion with regard	to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability					
Box No. IV Lack of	funity of invention						
	ed statement under Article 35(2) wi bility; citations and explanations su	th regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial					
	documents cited	pporting such statement					
	defects in the international applicat	tion					
Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application							
Date of submission of the demand	Date of	completion of this report					
09.01.2004	26.0	26.05.2004					
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/S		Authorized officer					
Patent- och registreringsverket							
Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM	Carl	Carl Fröderberg/EK					
Facsimile No. +46 8 667 72 88	Telepho	Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00					
Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (January 2004)							

Вох	k No. I	Basis of the report				
1.	1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.					
		This report is based on a translation from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:				
		international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))				
		publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)				
		international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)				
2.	furnisl	ith regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been raished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" d are not annexed to this report):				
	\bowtie	the international application as originally filed/furnished				
		the description:				
		pages as originally filed/furnished				
		pages* received by this Authority on pages*				
1		the claims: pages as originally filed/furnished				
Ì		pages as originally flied/furnished pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19				
		pages* received by this Authority on				
		pages* received by this Authority on				
}		the drawings:				
		pages as originally filed/furnished				
		pages* received by this Authority on				
Ì		pages* received by this Authority on				
		a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.				
3.		The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:				
		the description, pages				
ļ		the claims, Nos.				
		the drawings, sheets/figs				
		the sequence listing (specify):				
		any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify):				
4.		This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).				
		the description, pages				
		the claims, Nos.				
		the drawings, sheets/figs				
		the sequence listing (specify):				
		any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify):				
*	* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."					

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

 Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims Claims	1-8	YES NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims Claims	1-8	YES NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims Claims	1-8	YES NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents cited in the International Search Report:

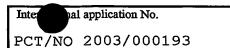
D1: GB 1569785 A D2: US 4388023 A D3: JP 59171784 A

The invention relates to an anchoring system to hold a vessel anchored during loading or unloading that comprises one or more anchor lines, extending upwards from one or more anchor to a subsea buoy, where a slack is arranged in the anchor lines by one or more clump weights. In claim 1 it is mentioned that the buoyancy of the subsea buoy and the buoyancy of the surface buoy is adapted such that by damage on the surface buoy, or the line therefrom to the subsea buoy, the subsea buoy and thereto suspended equipment will not be lowered further down vertically than that one or more of the clump weights are landing on the seabed, while during loading or unloading will at least one of the clump weights on each anchor line be located on or just above the seabed. This makes it unobvious to a person skilled in the art to modify the floating transfer station in D1 in such a way that the claimed invention according to the first claim is obtained.

The cited documents represent the general state of the art and the invention defined in claims 1-8 is not disclosed by any of these documents.

Accordingly, the invention defined in claims 1-8 is novel and is considered to involve an inventive step. The invention is industrially applicable.





(day/month/year)

Box No. VI Certain documents cited Certain published documents (Rule 70.10) Priority date (valid claim) Application No. Publication date Filing date Patent No. (day/month/year) (day/month/year) (day/month/year) US 6558215 B1, P 06/05/2003 30/01/2002 Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9) Date of written disclosure Date of non-written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure Kind of non-written disclosure

(day/month/year)